

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 107, "Rabbit and Squirrel Hunting," Iowa Administrative Code.

These rules stipulate the regulations for hunting rabbits and squirrels and include season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting.

The amendment closes the jackrabbit season statewide. Jackrabbits have not been counted on the August roadside survey during two of the last three years, and counts on the spring spotlight survey have also declined. The decline of the jackrabbit population is related to the decline of suitable habitat. Weather patterns since 2007 also may have contributed to the jackrabbit decline. White-tailed jackrabbits are considered extirpated in Missouri, and Nebraska closed its season from Grand Island to the Iowa border in 2006. Minnesota still has a season, although jackrabbit numbers there are also in long-term decline.

Studies in Iowa indicate that the few small jackrabbit populations that remain are not connected by suitable habitat. Thus, although hunting is not the cause for the statewide decline, additional mortality due to hunting may cause isolated populations to disappear.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 1, 2011, as **ARC 9543B**. A public hearing was held on June 21, 2011. No comments were received. This amendment is identical to that published under Notice of Intended Action.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

This amendment shall become effective September 14, 2011.

The following amendment is adopted.

Amend rule 571—107.2(481A) as follows:

**571—107.2(481A) Jackrabbit season.** ~~Open season for hunting jackrabbits shall be from the last Saturday in October through December 1 of each year. Bag limit shall be 1 per day; possession limit 2. Legal hunting hours shall be from sunrise to sunset. Entire state open.~~ Continuous closed season.

[Filed 7/18/11, effective 9/14/11]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 8/10/11.